

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 001016

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN MOSHER ON GREEK-TURKISH
RELATIONS

1. THE SECRETARY HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES A. MOSHER ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

--- IN ATHENS, ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND,
I WAS PRIVILEGED TO HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION ON MANY
SUBJECTS WITH THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE IN THE
NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT, DR. CONSTANTINE TRYPANIS . . . AS
YOU PROBABLY KNOW, A TRULY REMARKABLE PERSON;

--- MINISTER TRYPANIS MADE AT LEAST ONE COMMENT WHICH I
CONSIDER VERY SIGNIFICANT, SO MUCH SO THAT I HAVE DECIDED
TO CALL IT TO YOUR ATTENTION. IN DISCUSSING THE INTRICA-
CIES OF THE GREEK-TURKISH SITUATION, HE BEMOANED THE FACT
THAT TODAY THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN
THE INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC COM-
MUNITIES OF THE TWO NATIONS. HE SEEMED TO SAY, NOT ONLY
IS THAT AN EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE VACUUM WHENEVER OR WHEREVER
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PAGE 02 STATE 001016

IT EXISTS, BUT SPECIFICALLY AT THIS TIME IT IS A TRAGIC

FACT FOR BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. IF SOMEHOW THERE COULD BEGIN A TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION AT THE INTELLECTUAL-CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC LEVEL, IT MIGHT DEVELOP A CLIMATE CONDUCTIVE TO NEGOTIATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH PEOPLES.

--- DR. TRYPANIS VERY DEFINITELY INDICATED TO ME HIS PERSONAL INTENTION TO TAKE SOME SORT OF INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE THAT PROCESS. HE WAS NO MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT.

--- IT IMMEDIATELY OCCURRED TO ME, AND I PRESUMED TO SUGGEST TO HIM, THAT SOMEHOW WE IN THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE SKILLFUL ENOUGH, MIGHT HAVE THE REQUIRED GENIUS, TO ACT POSITIVELY . . . AT LEAST IN A CATALYTIC CAPACITY . . . TO ENCOURAGE, STIMULATE, FACILITATE THAT TYPE OF TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITIES OF THE TWO NATIONS.

--- HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, BUT FRIENDLY TO MY SUGGESTION. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION HE WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME ANY SUCH EFFORTS ON OUR PART, IF SKILLFULLY DONE.

--- I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU PERSONALLY, AND YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATES WOULD HAVE THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, IF IT SEEMED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE WORLD SITUATION . . . AND PERSONALLY I DO BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ALL OF US. I WOULD NOT PRESUME TO SUGGEST HOW IT COULD BEST BE DONE, OTHER THAN TO ASSUME THAT POSSIBLY TWO OR THREE OTHER NATIONS MIGHT ALSO BE INVOLVED IN ANY EFFORT WHICH INDIRECTLY WOULD BEGIN TO BRING TOGETHER THE GREEK AND TURKISH INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITIES . . . SOME SORT OF MECHANISM WHICH WOULD MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO EACH OTHER, IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY COULD TALK INFORMALLY AND SHARE THEIR MUTUAL CONCERNS.

--- I WILL WELCOME YOUR REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL WHICH I AM MAKING TO YOU ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, CONFIDENTIAL EXCEPT THAT I DO WANT TO ALSO PASS IT ON TO AMBASSADOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 001016

KUBISCH BECAUSE OF MY CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM WHILE IN ATHENS.

--- SINCERELY, CHARLES A. MOSHER, REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON TRYPANIS' VIEWS AND YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO CONGRESSMAN

MOSHER. INGERSOLL

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